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Ex-KGB agent reported in S. Africa

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) — A former high-ranking Soviet agent was given asylum in South Africa in 1968 and is living in the country under a new identity, South Africa's retired police commissioner says.

The Natal Mercury said Gen. Mike Geldenhuys, who retired last year as head of police, disclosed the story of Bogdan Stashinsky for the first time in a series of interviews.

According to Geldenhuys, as quoted in the Mercury, Stashinsky defected while in East Germany in 1961 and confessed to

the murders in Munich of two Ukrainian emigres, Dr. Lev Rebet in 1957 and Stefan Bandera two years later.

After interrogation by European and American intelligence, he was tried by a West German court and sentenced to eight years hard labor.

IT WAS CLEAR that Stashinsky's life would be in danger from other KGB agents after his release and that asylum in Europe or the United States would be risky.

"In the meantime, we were approached by the West German secu-

rity service and asked to give this man asylum in South Africa because they were convinced it was the only country where he would be comparatively safe from KGB agents."

Stashinsky "was able to supply our intelligence service with a vast amount of invaluable information on the structure and operations of the Russian secret service."

Stashinsky, now 52, underwent extensive cosmetic surgery and was given a new family background. Some time later he married a woman from Durban.